

specimen of the nominate race may occasionally resemble to some extent a freshly moulted specimen of the following taxon.

(b) *Melaenornis silens leucomelas* (Sundevall), new race *Bradyornis leucomelas* Sundevall, *Oefv. K. Sv. Vet. Akad. Förhandl.*, vol. vii, 1850, p. 106: *Caffraria superiore*. Type locality here restricted to Mohapoani, Rustenburg district, western Transvaal.

*Diagnosis*: Differs from the nominate race, as defined above, in lacking in the adult male the strong smoke-grey suffusion to the breast and lateral surfaces of the under parts, this being largely replaced by a light buffish-grey overlay to the predominantly white under parts. Averaging a little smaller in size.

*Measurements*: 9♂♂ wing 93.0–99.5 (95.7); tail 76.5–83.0 (79.6); culmen 18.0–19.5 (18.5); 4♀♀ wing 89.5–92.0 (90.9); tail 71.0–74.5 (72.5); culmen 18.0–19.5 (18.5) mm.

*Material*: 25 (northern Cape Province 9, western Orange Free State 2, Transvaal 4, Bechuanaland Protectorate 8, Zululand 1, Swaziland 1.)

*Range*: Cape Province north of the Orange River, the dry western Orange Free State, the western Transvaal and the eastern Bechuanaland Protectorate. Occasionally ranging into northern Zululand, Mocambique and Swaziland during winter as a non-breeding visitor.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

For the loan of series of the Fiscal Flycatcher I am deeply indebted to the Directors of the following museums: South African Museum, Cape Town (through Dr. J. M. Winterbottom); East London Museum; Transvaal Museum; and the National Museum of Southern Rhodesia, Bulawayo (through Mr. M. P. Stuart Irwin.) I am also grateful to Mr. P. A. Clancey for looking at the assembled material with me and for assistance in other ways, and to Dr. J. M. Winterbottom, Director of the Percy Fitzpatrick Institute of African Ornithology, Cape Town, for his assistance with the early literature concerning this species.

### A new *Cossypha* from Kenya

by G. JOHN WILLIAMS

Received 6th March, 1962

During January–February, 1962 Mr. John R. M. Tennent undertook a brief collecting trip to the mist forest on Mt. Endau, Kitui District, Kenya, on behalf of the Coryndon Museum, Nairobi.

Among the birds he obtained is a series of six specimens (5 adults and 1 immature) of a distinct new race of *Cossypha natalensis*.

I have pleasure in naming this bird

*Cossypha natalensis tennenti* Subsp. nov.

in honour of Mr. John R. M. Tennent who has added much to our knowledge of local birds during his service in Kenya.

*Description*: *Cossypha natalensis tennenti* differs from all other known races in having the underparts, head, back, rump and tail much paler and yellower (*light cadmium* Ridgway) with only a slight trace of rufous wash.

*Type*: Adult male (Collector's No. 63). Loc. Mist forest, Mt. Endau, Kitui District, Kenya. 3,400 ft. 25th January, 1962: Collector J. R. M. Tennent; in mist net. The Type and a paratype female will be deposited in the collection of the British Museum (Natural History).

*Measurements of Type:* Wing 94; Exposed culmen 16.5; Tail 82; Tarsus 27 mm.

*Remarks:* Three adult male paratypes measure: Wing 93, 94, 93; Exposed culmen 15, 14, 15; Tail 85, 83, 85; Tarsus 27, 27, 27 mm. One adult female paratype measures: Wing 87 (in moult); Exposed culmen 15, Tail no measurement, in moult; Tarsus 27 mm. The immature bird is paler and less rufous than similar examples of other races.

*Distribution:* Apparently confined to the mist forest and adjacent bush on Mt. Endau, Kitui District, Kenya.

I should like to record my thanks to Mr. M. E. W. North who sponsored the expedition, to Mr. Peter Hill, District Commissioner, Kitui, for his valuable assistance in the field, and to the skinners, Joseph Mbonge and Nguyu Mburu, for preparing first-class specimens under difficult conditions.

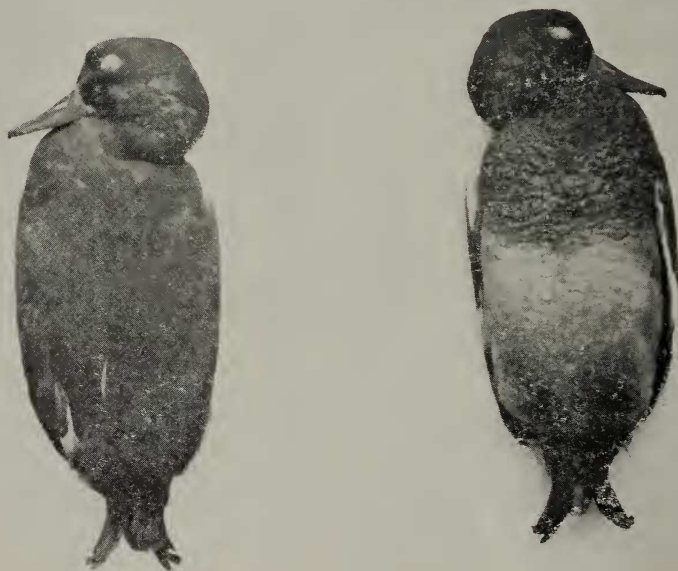
### A hybrid Red-crested Pochard x Ferruginous White-eye

by BRYAN L. SAGE

Received 23rd February, 1962

There appear to be few recorded occurrences of the inter-generic hybrid *Netta rufina* (Pallas) x *Aythya nyroca* (Guldenstadt). Hopkinson (1935 a & b) merely lists the cross with no comments, and it is also referred to by Phillips (1923-1926). Gray (1958) lists both these references and the one given below, together with the remark that hybrids back-crossed to the Ferruginous White-eye result in offspring scarcely distinguishable from that species.

On 8th May, 1929, the late Lord Walter Rothschild exhibited a skin



Red-crested Pochard x Ferruginous White-eye.